

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9294
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1838

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SP
SUBJECT: MAJOR DECISIONS AT NEXT CABINET MEETING

1. THE CABINET MEETING SCHEDULED TOMORROW, FRIDAY, MARCH 11,
MAY TAKE TWO MAJOR DECISIONS, ONE WITH RESPECT TO
THE SCOPE OF THE AMNESTY AND THE OTHER WITH RESPECT
TO THE ELECTORAL LAW.

2. ON THE AMNESTY, EMBOFFS SPOKE WITH A KEY AIDE OF
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT LT. GEN. GUTIERREZ
MELLADO, HE INDICATED DEEP CONCERN WITHIN THE MILITARY
THAT THE AMNESTY NOT BE EXTENDED TO THOSE CONVICTED OF
CRIMES OF BLOOD. BY HIS ESTIMATION, "WITH ALL THE
GOOD WILL IN THE WORLD" FROM 30 TO 40 PRISONERS DESCRIBED
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IN THE PRESS AND BY POLITICIANS AS POLITICAL PRISONERS
WERE IN FACT PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN ASSASSINATIONS
AND THE LIKE. THERE WAS DEEP RELUCTANCE IN THE MILITARY
TO EXTEND AMNESTY TO THESE KINDS OF PEOPLE, THOUGH IT
WAS POSSIBLE THAT EXILING THEM OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY
TO SOME FAR AWAY PLACE LIKE SOUTH AMERICA WOULD BE ACCEPT-
ABLE IF IT COULD BE GUARANTEED THAT THEY WOULD NOT RETURN

(HE DID NOT APPEAR CONVINCED AT ALL THAT EXILE WOULD BE MORE THAN VERY TEMPORARY). WHAT HE SAID TENDS TO CONFIRM ANOTHER REPORT WHICH WE HAD THAT GUTIERREZ MELLADO HIMSELF HAS BEEN PERSONALLY VETTING EVERY CASE. THE ISSUE, OF COURSE, IS LESS WHAT THE POLITICAL PARTIES WILL SAY ABOUT THE SCOPE OF THE AMNESTY THAN THE REACTION IN THE BASQUE PROVINCES.

3. ON THE ELECTORAL LAW, THE KEY ISSUE IS OF COURSE THE QUESTION OF "INCOMPATIBILITIES" AND THE LINKAGE TO SUAREZ'S EVENTUAL DECISION AS TO WHETHER HE WILL STAND FOR OFFICE. SECOND VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT OSORIO IN TODAY'S "INFORMACIONES" HAS IMPLIED THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BETTER TO PERMIT CABINET MINISTERS TO RUN, THOUGH HE BALANCED THIS BY NOTING THAT THERE WERE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT STAGE OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN WHICH THE SPANISH WERE TRYING TO INSTALL A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. EATON

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